

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 24, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Present: Jane B. Allen, Chairman, David A. Rempell, Tom Costley, Richard C. Steege, Ronald Turbin

Others Present: Scott Park, Vincent Viscuso, Russell Duval, Chuck St. John, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Ms. Allen extended congratulations to the Mt. Greylock High School Boys Soccer Team for their Division 2 State Championship.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** November 5, 2008 and November 10, 2008 – Mr. Costley moved to approve the November 5, 2008 minutes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried with one abstention by Mr. Turbin. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the November 10, 2008 minutes. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried with Mr. Costley and Mr. Turbin abstaining.
- 3. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None.
- 4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**
 - A.** Local Auction Permit for 12/4/08 – former Taconic Restaurant – Mr. Turbin moved to approve a permit for a local auction to JJ Manning for the former Taconic Restaurant at 1161 Cold Spring Road on December 4, 2008. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 5. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**
 - A.** Recycling Regulations (Scott Park) – Mr. Park explained that recycling markets are declining and some markets for some materials have dried up completely if not at a trickle. In addition, the local paper market, Bennington Paperboard closed permanently in August. He said Williamstown is a member of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District who negotiated changes with the district hauler that include some changes in waste disposal including contaminated loads such as vacuum cleaners, trash cans, etc. The first time this happens, the hauler will photograph the contaminated load and send it to the District and the town. The second time, the load will be rejected and brought back at the town's expense. Transfer station attendants will have to be more vigilant. What can be recycled has also been changed. New flyers will be distributed at the transfer station. Plastic was hardest hit – only plastic containers with a neck will be accepted.
 - B.** FY08 Annual Audit Report: Mr. Viscuso and Mr. Duval of Adelson Moynihan Kowalczyk, PC, reviewed the FY08 Audit Report. For the year ended June 30, 2008, auditors made no comments or recommendations. They did report the status of the prior year's recommendation stating that the town has implemented GASB 45 in FY08 and that the Library has turned over its cash accounts to the Williamstown Treasurer. The auditor's opinion of the financial statements of accounting practices were in

conformity with US generally accepted accounting principles. Mr. Viscuso reported that the combined ending fund balance or net assets of the Town (assets minus liabilities) on June 30, 2008 were \$33,900,242. Of this amount \$5,010,588 (unrestricted net assets) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. As of the end of the current fiscal year unrestricted governmental net assets were \$1,394,503 or approximately 7.6% of governmental expenditures. The Town's total debt decreased 9.5% during fiscal 2008 as a result of scheduled retirements of \$690,000 leaving a balance of \$6,560,000. The government's total net assets increased by \$470,907 to \$33,900,242 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. This increase is attributable to an increase in business-type assets (assets related to water, sewage collection and solid waste disposal) of \$493,654 and a decrease in governmental assets of \$22,747. The decrease in governmental assets was a consequence of the town's early implementation of Statement 45 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (Accounting and Financial reporting by Employers for Postemployment benefits other than Pensions) effective June 30, 2008. In connection with Statement 45 the town recorded a Net Other Post-Employment Benefit Obligation (NOPEBO) expense on June 30, 2008 of \$586,194 offsetting a net increase in governmental assets of \$563,447. Further information regarding the auditor's report can be found in the Finance Department or Town Manager's Office.

C. Notice of Lease – Cal Ripken Field – Mr. Rempell moved to sign the Notice of Lease for the Cal Ripken Field project. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. 2009 Annual License Renewals: Mr. Rempell moved to approve the renewals of the restaurant licenses attached. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve a class III auto sales license with restrictions for Ben's Auto, 551 Henderson Road, Philip W. Larabee, Owner. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Turbin said if anyone was interested in attending the MMA meeting in January 09, he would be willing to coordinate it.

8. ADJOURN: Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, December 8, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary

RT/kp